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The Trial that Never Happened: Josef Mengele and the Twins of Auschwitz*

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Abstract

In 1985, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, a unique event took place: a gathering of survivors of so-called medical experiments conducted at

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> Auschwitz-Birkenau by Dr. Josef Mengele. The event was titled "J'accuse." Frustrated by the inability of various governments to apprehend Mengele and bring him to justice, these survivors sought to record their testimonies while they were still able, to be used in the event Mengele was eventually captured.

Introduction

In 1985, upon the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the camps, the Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors (CANDLES) brought together surviving twins of Mengele's experiments. The organization CANDLES was formed in 1984 by Eva Mozes Kor and her late twin sister, Miriam Mozes Zeiger who, as twins, survived Dr. Josef Mengele's experiments in Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

> Honorable members of this event: the criminal Josef Mengele is alive and free. Those who are testifying here in a public forum are giving testimony about what the criminal Josef Mengele has done. The ones who have organized this event have two names: C.A.N.D.L.E.S. and "Forever the Twins of Auschwitz." (*Netzah teumay Auschwitz*).

The process was not a trial but was conducted in a trial-like manner with various witnesses, the twins and others with first-hand knowledge of Mengele's activities, being questioned by a panel. This panel consisted of

- Telford Taylor, Chief Counsel for all the trials before the Nuremberg Military Tribunal
- Gideon Hausner, Chairman of the Panel, Chief Prosecutor of the Eichmann Trial, Chairman of the International Council of Yad Vashem
- Simon Wiesenthal, Director of the Documentation Center of the Federation of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime, Vienna
- Professor Yehuda Bauer, Historian, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
- Zvi Terlo, Attorney and Former Head of the Israeli Ministry of Justice
- Rafi Eitan, Former Advisor to the Israeli Government on Terrorism

During the three days of the proceedings, 30 twins, dwarves, and prisoners who knew Mengele testified against him. After three days of testimony, it was declared that there existed evidence enough to convict Dr. Josef Mengele *in absentia* for war crimes against humanity. The US Attorney General William French Smith ordered the US Department of Justice to investigate these allegations immediately (Posner 2000, p. 306).

The testimonies were given in English, French, and Hebrew and were videotaped. The videotapes were obtained from Yad Vashem and have been translated into English for the first time in this paper.

Dr. Josef Mengele

Dr. Josef Mengele was born on March 16, 1911 in Günzburg, Germany. The Mengele family was initially involved in the farm equipment manufacturing industry and eventually was contracted to manufacture military supplies and army goods. During his early childhood, Josef was viewed as a mediocre student, but very well behaved. Having been described as his "mother's son," he always sided with his beloved mother, Walburga. During his adolescence, he developed osteomyelitis and nephritis. As he entered his freshman year at the University in Munich, he began listening to speeches by Adolf Hitler on topics such as racial purity (Posner & Ware 2000).

Mengele earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from Munich University in 1935 for his study entitled "Racial Morphological Research on the Lower Jaw Section of Four Racial Groups" (Posner & Ware 2000, p. 10). His full medical degree was awarded by the University of Frankfurt in July 1938 (Posner & Ware 2000).

Racial hygiene and the contamination of the gene pool became great interests of Mengele's and, in 1937, he became a research assistant at the Third Reich Institute for Heredity, Biology, and Racial Purity at the University of

Frankfurt. Mengele joined the staff of Professor Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer, a prominent geneticist who was especially interested in the study of twins (Posner & Ware 2000). Mengele would carry this interest in the years to come.

Mengele joined the Nazi party in May 1937. He joined the army in June 1940, joining the Waffen SS. In June 1941, he was sent to the Ukraine where, within the first few days, he was awarded the Iron Cross Second Class. In January 1942, he "joined the medical corps of the Waffen SS's Viking division," receiving the Iron Cross First Class and the Black Badge for the Wounded and the Medal for the Care of the German People (Posner & Ware 2000, p. 17). In late 1942, Mengele was transferred to Berlin and promoted to the rank of Haupsturmführer (Captain) and in May 1943, he was transferred to Auschwitz. Von Verschuer, then director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Hereditary, Teaching, and Genetics in Berlin, was likely instrumental in influencing this appointment. It was this institute that provided funding for Mengele's research and to which he sent the materials and results of his research (Posner & Ware 2000).

Josef Mengele performed many experiments on his prisoners. He would give some of the children candy, chocolate, and sweets and, for some, he would organize times for them to play with one another. For Mengele, having a set of twins enter the camp was a gift. With a specific interest in identical twins, he amassed large amounts of data, performing daily blood samples and x-rays on the

sets of twins. Regardless of the means, many twins would end up being killed and an autopsy would follow. No one else at Auschwitz truly knew what Mengele was doing inside his laboratory. There was a general sense of secrecy surrounding his work, for these twins often were taken into his medical block never to be seen again (Lagnado 1992).

In the summer of 1944, the rate of extermination in Auschwitz had increased so dramatically that the twins were among the few who would be allowed to survive the selections. They would be kept alive only to be part of the experiments by Mengele (Lagnado 1992).

As the Russians approached Auschwitz in 1945, some of the twins were forced by the German army into joining the death march. Those twins who were able to avoid the march were left behind without food or water. They were later found by Allied forces and marched out of the camp. Some were reunited with their families, others went to displaced persons camps, and some of those who were orphaned were taken to a monastery in the Polish city of Katowice (Lagnado 1992).

Videotape of the Testimonies Against Josef Mengele, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, February 4, 1985.

Panel member seated, speaking into microphone, bald, glasses

The Nazis believed that race is the key to understanding human beings and that they would succeed in improving the race. To Auschwitz, the kingdom of death

and experiments, Mengele arrived. The experiments of Mengele exemplified the terrible cruelty of the Nazis. He was attracted to the job of being a judge over human beings' lives. Therefore, he liked being in charge of the selections. He was the judge, the jury, and the executioner. Who from the camp will go to work, and who will go to the gas chambers?

The Nazis invented a form of human existence called the "muselman" (Michael and Doerr 2002, p. 281). This was a prisoner who was trembling, swaying, and walking around without any purpose. After some time, after he is beyond the needs of his body, he stops reacting to orders and is sent to the gas chambers, or he just ended up in a pile of bodies of the death commando, or his body was thrown on death wagons pulled by young boys.

The Nazis were involved in the destruction of a religion. They wanted to eliminate the Jews, so they made special efforts to strike the heart of them—the children. The Nazis decided to eliminate all the Jewish children as their first goal. There were special projects called "children's actions." Once there was a woman screaming at the top of her voice in a truck that had picked up her and her children. She touched the heart of the SS in charge of the truck, and he asked how many children the woman had. She said three. He said, "You can leave the truck and take one with you." Six hands were reaching toward the mother. She went from child to child, every time thinking, "I will take this one." The Nazi yelled, "Fast! Fast! Make up your mind!" Ultimately, the mother came off the truck by herself.

All Jewish holidays are in some way about remembering the efforts to destroy the Jewish people. In Auschwitz, they called it the Holiday for Race Destruction. This was the way one of the survivors testified:

> We were 1,200 young people. We were in the soccer field. We arrived there the night of the holiday called Yom Kippur. Suddenly, a feeling of electrical current went through us. Mengele appeared on his bicycle. He looked at all of us in the soccer field and his eyes fell on a 13 year old boy. Mengele asked his age. The boy said 18. Mengele got very angry. Mengele said 'bring me a hammer, a board, and some nails'. He nailed the board to a post in the camp by a gate to the height of the tallest kid. So he told the young people to go underneath that board and the kids who could go underneath it were not tall enough, they would be sent to their deaths. Everybody started stretching.
>
> My father was standing next to me and said 'if you want to live, you better put some rocks underneath your heels in your shoes'. I couldn't stand very long with the rocks under my heels. My brother gave me his hat. I tore the hat and I put the pieces in my shoe. This way I could walk. The short kids were running

and attached themselves to the taller ones. One of the Nazis yelled 'Sabotage!'

Panel member, male, at podium, gray suit, glasses

I have tremendous respect for your courage to stand in front of the world to testify about the crimes committed by Josef Mengele. This chapter in human history is on your side and what you are doing will ensure that this chapter will never be forgotten…That there should be lessons from this testimony for generations to come.

Panel member

The person who put together the program for these coming days was a prosecutor in Israel. His name is Zvi Terlot. He is giving up his right to address you in public in order to cut down some of the time.

[The following translation, done by Laura Montgrain, is from French.]

Simone Veil

I felt obliged to come testify here because I think that it is necessary for future generations to know; no, not everything that happened at Auschwitz, but the maximum amount of information that can still be gathered. Naturally this would require the research of a historian, but today

there are still a few survivors remaining and I think it is time to recognize this, time for them to tell everything that they know - not only so that we can understand the effect, but so that it can be analyzed profoundly, and so that we can understand, if it is possible to understand, how men and women could have participated in the destruction of an entire people, in a conscious and deliberate manner. How we could have allowed certain atrocities, even besides extermination, to have been carried out by beings that appeared to be human beings like everyone else. And how so many men and women, SS or otherwise, who found themselves in the camps, and who appeared also to be good fathers and good mothers of families, could have actively collaborated in this enterprise of extermination. The testimony that I will give will be as accurate as possible – memories that a woman can have today, 40 years after finding herself, at 16 and a half years old, deported with her family. On the subject of Mengele I will not say very much because I was not one of the twins who, unfortunately for them, must have been [in close contact with him]. But I will speak about the atmosphere at the camp, of Auschwitz, and what was said of Mengele.

After two and a half days of travel, coming from Drancy, I arrived at Auschwitz. Or rather, when we say Auschwitz, in fact it is a group of camps that were in the region of the city of Auschwitz, where Auschwitz was in charge of administration. But the [prisoners] that arrived from France arrived at Birkenau. I therefore arrived at Birkenau on the night of April 15th, 1944. Once the train

stopped, the freight cars in which we had been held were immediately opened (certain people had become half-crazy after the days of travel), and we were immediately pushed outside (beings that looked strange to us, dressed in striped uniforms). And since it was in the middle of the night, there were enormous spotlights on the platform to make sure that nobody could escape. Once we found ourselves on the platform, immediately we were ordered in German (but there were certain people who were translating for us), to form lines in groups of five, and immediately we were sorted (very fast, all of this happened very fast, the luggage, the clothes, all of this had stayed in the train), and so very quickly we found ourselves on the platform. On the platform, immediately the men and women were separated and, at the same time, put to one side were people of a certain age or those that were too young. I remember being worried when someone asked me, "How old are you?" and it wasn't until after, of course, that I understood that they were worried about that fact that I was relatively young, and that I risked not being admitted into the camp. In reality, my mother, who was 44 years old, my sister, who was older than me, who was 22 years old, and myself, who was (my sister was 20 years old, excuse me), and myself who was 16 years old, we all three were admitted into the camp. We found ourselves in a barrack, an immense barrack, where we were simply left for the rest of the night, and where each of us wondered (since we were down to just the women – I was almost the youngest, I believe there were one or two that were younger than me) what had happened to the younger

ones and those that were older. And right away, naturally, as there were certain deportees that came to simply tell us to be quiet, or to calm us down, they started to tell us that those that had been separated from us were taken straight to the gas chambers. I can tell you that on that day, well during that night, naturally we believed that it was an enterprise of demoralization and we had hatred towards these women, deported like us, who were trying to make us believe what appeared to be abominable lies. It was generally only after a few days that we came to truly believe [what they had said].

In the night, we therefore stayed as we were and in the early morning, the SS came, they made us undress, and we were tattooed. And my explanation of these tattoos, which were imposed at such an early stage, is that I think that one of the very important aspects of Birkenau and the other extermination camps is that they were not work camps (they were not camps that sought to exploit to the maximum a certain workforce), and they were also not punishment camps (where the goal would be to show a certain population that they, in some form, had committed reprehensible acts). It was a systematic enterprise of depersonalization – and even above that, physical suffering, which was considerable and was evoked earlier in regard to the "muselmen" ("muselmen", were skeletons, weighing hardly more than a few tens of kilograms). But I believe that what the deportees lived through, and what they remember today with even more anxiety and difficulty (I say difficulty because even today, it is difficult to handle take), it is humiliation …[recording skips]… we were dressed and I

believe this also made it so that we had the impression that we were no longer women.

I had a … when it was time for showers, our hair was cut short or shaved – I was in one of two or three convoys that was lucky enough to not have our hair completely shaved off… [recording skips briefly]… it is demoralizing for a woman to have her hair completely shaved off. But I think that [the fact that my head was not shaved] maybe saved my life because I retained a more human shape, and it is true that I found … [recording skips]… at the time they would keep two or three convoys in which the women would not have their hair shaved off, but cut short, perhaps because they wanted to show a few to the Red Cross, or others, how everything was crazy and absurd anyway, it is useless … [recording skips]… return, I simply wanted to stress some points that emphasize what I said regarding depersonalization. And in the details, I believe it is important to see that [our depersonalization] is what the Germans, the SS, truly wanted.

Immediately after our trip to the showers, we went to get registered. And at the registration desk we were asked, "What is your name?" and we gave our names. Then we received a pair of [indistinguishable word] and were told, "No, that is not your name, your name is Sarah," because all the Jewish women were called Sarah. I can tell you that after that we were nothing but a number anyway. But all of this was a means whereby we were brought to a certain [position/status]. In the blocks, everything was also organized for the purpose of dehumanizing us. We slept,

theoretically in groups of five, in a sort of stone box which we called the [indistinguishable word]. In fact, we were often much more numerous, seven or eight, and we were practically superimposed [on top of] on one another in minuscule spaces. The way in which we used the bathroom (because we had to satisfy basic natural needs) was also organized in such a way that we felt as though we were less than animals, because at least animals can isolate themselves, and we could not, and because to relieve ourselves there was simply, in an immense room, planks that were placed on top of holes, and we sat down next to each other on the planks, knowing very well that if all of a sudden something were to happen that did not please the guard, we would be pushed into the hole in which all the excrement was found.

On the subject of the camp, I will not go into specifics, I will not speak of the very difficult work and the roll calls, but the atmosphere, which I believe to be quite pervasive at Auschwitz or at extermination camps where there were gas chambers, was the haunting fear of being selected for the gas chambers.

First of all, the fear of the gas chambers because many among us had left family members in our countries (we were not all deported) and because with every convoy that arrived, we worried that one of these family members would arrive and be sent to the gas chambers. I had to live with this fear of waiting every 15 days for another convoy to come from France, and wondering who was deported and whether we would know if the people were admitted into

the camp or if they were put into the trucks to be taken to the gas chambers. And we also had to tell eventual friends that were just arriving, and who told us, "I am here [I have entered the camp] but my children are [did] not," we had to tell them what, like us, they did not want to believe at first: that they would never see their children or parents again.

We also experienced dramatic moments, when new arrivals would ask us about people they used to know, and who had been deported before them. And by saying… by researching among those of our nationality, we would explain to them that they did not enter the camp, or that they did enter and they had survived for so many weeks, so many months, and that one day, well it was over. I remember my best friend from childhood who was deported a few months before me, I searched for a long time before I found someone who had known her, and I will always remember the moment when I was told in detail how she had been taken in a selection on Sunday morning, knowing very well why she had been selected.

And there were anxieties, and I believe we must talk about the anxieties. The month of May 1944, I worked at the time, the quarantine was over at the camp, I often worked outside, and we had the occasion, leaving for work, to pass by all the trains (those immense trains, which we asked ourselves at the beginning what they were, they were the trains carrying shipments of people). And we saw them arrive, we passed very near the trains. Also the block where I lived in the camp (the unit that I revisited when I had the occasion to return to Auschwitz, and that was very close to

the crematories) allowed us to see, once we returned from work in the evening, all these trains that arrived very regularly, the people who got off – women, children, men, children's cars, all sorts of objects, and all these trains (we had lengthened the railroad tracks); and we saw that practically (every once in a while they would enter [the camp] and we would wonder why, two or three women, a few people that would enter, sometimes more) and the majority of the time we saw that no one in these shipments (of people) entered (the camp), but that they were all sent to the gas chambers.

If I say this it is because when, every once in a while the existence of the gas chambers is denied, and that we lived in this atmosphere and in the atmosphere also – not only what we could see, but the appalling odor that would escape from the smoking chimney. Also during this time, as I worked one of the landscaping jobs, I had the occasion to leave the camp for landscaping work. We were sent to do some work at Brzezinka [Birkenau]. Brzezinka was a post next door where there were crematories. In the morning when we arrived to do our landscaping work, there was still on the grass outside of the crematorium … of the gas chambers … very well maintained lawns with nice pansies all around like there were everywhere around the camp, not around the barracks but in the areas reserved for the offices and for the SS. Around the crematories there were, therefore, these lawns, these pansies, and on the grass were children's toys, clothing, children's cars, prostheses (wooden legs), all

kinds of things, food items, that demonstrated that this was all that was left of those who, in the night, were gassed.

Our fear (anxiety) was so great, of all this, that every scratch that we may have had, every parasite that we may have carried, became a drama [a big deal], because we knew that that was enough to be immediately taken in a selection. In fact, these workers for the most part were covered in sunburn during the summer. All of this worried us and made it so that we tried to avoid as much as possible having what could be a pretext for being selected. And also we were so obsessed [by this] that when I called to mind Brzezinka, when I called to mind this post where we would go, one day where we had worked all day, one day at lunch time, we were brought to wash our hands and do our business and the building in which they brought us looked so much like a gas chamber from the outside (in fact, maybe part of it was), that we did not want to enter. And this same phenomenon was repeated, I must say, during the evacuation in January 1945. They wanted us to enter into a brick plant. This building had a large chimney and this large chimney called to mind for us things so appalling, that even though we knew that it was just a brick plant and we could enter without danger, there was very much hesitation and – anyway, we were pushed into the building, we did not have a choice.

And there you have [a recount] of life at Auschwitz, of everyday life, I believe we have much discussed. But I think we must also talk about the [SS's] desire to create women who were, I spoke only of women, individuals who

no longer had anything human. Equally dehumanizing was the way in which we were given food. I don't believe it would have cost much to give us [each] bowls, of which there were plenty, but in reality they purposely gave us one for two or three people, and we had to lap in these bowls, absolutely like animals. In fact, certain deportees were so hungry that they would get the contents at the bottom of the vats, once the soup had been distributed, and they would indeed eat them like animals.

Zvi Terlot, seated, black suit, balding, gray hair and glasses, beard, seated perpendicular to others

[Quoting a survivor:]

We were put on a truck to the planet called Auschwitz. Our attention was directed to this planet which had Mengele. Who is the person who decided on life and death in Auschwitz? This was the person who used children as guinea pigs for pseudo-scientific experiments. We have on our hands a questionnaire that Mengele filled out in January 1932 so that he could become a member of the SS. We know from this questionnaire that he was born March 16, 1911 in Günzberg, Bavaria; that Mengele was serving in that superior German army from October 1924; that he is a doctor (MD). There are the names of his parents, grandparents, and other names in his file: those who were in his family and those in his family who had died, so the SS was interested in his heritage. I forgot to make note of an interesting little thing: that when Mengele filled out the

questionnaire, he lived in Frankfurt. The street address was Powell Erlich #30. Then he decided to marry Irene from the house of Schönbein. He had to get the permission, as a member of the SS, from Heinrich Himmler. So they had to research Irene's heritage. On March 9, 1939, just before Mengele's birthday, he received permission to marry her. I am presenting all these documents. On July 18, 1940, he filled out another questionnaire including his number in the SS. His height was 174 cm. He has an MD degree and a Ph.D. in anthropology. His expertise and interest were in the function of the brain and also racial hygiene. The place of his work was the University of Frankfurt in racial hygiene and racial heritage. He was in an organization involved in pro-Nazi activities from 1931-1933. It was called a volunteer career with the S*trum Nazis*, the dark powers. He volunteered at age 20. From Powell Erlich Street he moved to Eiznik #49. On February 14, 1943 Mengele was sent to a unit to the east with the SS police. Mengele succeeded within two months to being transferred to the superior unit of the SS, the Viking unit, and he made it to the rank of captain as signed by a brigadier general of the SS. On May 24, 1943 he became head doctor of the unit. On May 30, 1943, he was nominated to be head doctor for the SS at the Auschwitz concentration camp. This document deals with the evaluation of Mengele's work at Auschwitz and is dated August 19, 1944. He's described to be a very learned, very eager, and very involved. As an SS physician, he was very much appreciated and loved.

1944 was the year that was the beginning of the end with the Red Army pounding toward the camp. Everything the Nazis were trying to do to was to protect the fatherland from the Red Army, which was trying to destroy Germany. The selections in Auschwitz stopped in November, 1944. Mengele disappeared, nobody saw him.

Mengele then hid out in Bavaria and used his own name. The Mengele firm is very well known in Germany. It is a farm equipment company. When some people started to search for his whereabouts in 1953, he escaped to South America. He would make trips among Paraguay, Brazil, and his hometown. In 1959, the Federal Republic of Germany issued a warrant for his arrest. There is no doubt that the trial of Adolph Eichmann brought some confusion and concern in the Nazi communities in South America. Mengele is still free.

Ella Lingens, Viennese German, not Jewish, opposed Hitler, speaking in English

I am a Doctor of Medicine. I was arrested because I tried to help Jewish friends who had come together in the youth movement. They were trying to escape from Switzerland and the Gestapo. We were caught and arrested in Vienna in October 1942. We were first sent to the police prison where I spent four months in Vienna and on the 20th of February of 1943, I came to Auschwitz.

In Auschwitz, I had a privileged position because the non-Jews were privileged compared to the Jews. And

amongst the non-Jews, the Germans were privileged. And among all prisoners, the doctors were privileged. So I had all of the privileges. Yes, I got to serve on the bright side of the planet.

I served under many doctors before Mengele: Kiss, Klein, Koenig. And then Mengele took over and when I first saw him, there was already one difference between him and the others. He came in accompanied by Koenig and was told to take over the camp as Lagerarzt [Camp doctor. SS head of medical personnel at a camp (Michael & Doerr, 2002, p. 255)]. And then he beckoned me and asked, "How did you come here?" So I told him because I helped Jews escape. When I gave this answer to others, they would reply, "Oh, you are the enemy" and "Our soldiers are fighting in a war against these people" and such. Mengele asked how I could have imagined that I would succeed and I replied that there were cases in which the Gestapo had been successfully bribed. To this Mengele replied, "Well, of course, we are selling Jews. It would be stupid if we weren't doing so. But why did you get mixed up in such business?"

One could say that Mengele didn't believe in these nationalistic ideas. He said he believed in power and in domination. I had many conversations with him. He once asked me if I knew that there were only two gifted peoples in the world. They were the Jews and the Germans. And he didn't state which of these two people would dominate the world. He said that he wanted the German to be the dominators.

I did not participate in Mengele's experiments but we knew about them. We knew that he wanted to have twins. And at that time we really thought that it would help the twins to be examined by him because otherwise they might be dead sooner. He made measurements of the skeleton and the head, with anthropological descriptions. It might be good for people to say they are twins.

[When Lingens was asked what she knew about Mengele's so-called selections, she responded:]

One or two days later, their numbers were called up and they were sent to Block 25. Afterward everyone was confined to their blocks as those selected had to get in the lorries which went around the camp to the gas chambers and crematorium. Mengele had a special way of doing the selections sometimes. He once told the doctors to make lists of their patients with diagnosis, prognosis, and how long they would need to stay in the hospital. When the doctor put down more than three weeks, this person's number was put on the list. But if the time given was less than three weeks, Mengele summoned the doctors and said, "You pretend to be a doctor? You want to send this weak woman away from the hospital within three weeks? She needs a month of hospital." This was Mengele's way of making selections.

In September 1944, I saw Mengele between blocks and he asked, "Did I ever show you the results of my research?" When I replied that he had not, he led me to his room in a little block where the patients were received. He showed me some sheets and drawings of skeletons, heads, measurements and other notes. I couldn't read the notes. I

saw anthropologic descriptions. He asked, "Isn't it a great pity that all this will fall into the hands of the Bolsheviks?"

[In December 1944, Dr. Lingens was shipped to Dachau. Dr. Lingens was asked by a panel member if she remembered when selections at Auschwitz stopped and she replied that she did not. She noted that she worked only in the German block at the time the selections stopped.]

In the German block, we had no Jews except for one Jewish nurse, which Mengele had put in there, Yana Hellerova from Prague. Her husband was a doctor in the Gypsy camp. He was Dr. Heller. The evening before the Gypsy camp was gassed, Mengele came to Heller and told him to pack his things, that he was going to take Heller away. Heller replied that he didn't want to leave without his wife and child so Mengele told him to have them pack as well. Heller was transferred to the F lager. Ms. Heller came to our camp and Mengele told me to take her as a nurse. This was not allowed. If there had been a complaint, it would have been blamed on us.

Mengele was very efficient in fighting typhus which is transferred by lice. We had disinfectant, but it never worked well because people tried to hide their belongings to keep them safe and thus the disinfectant could not reach them. The lice multiplied there. After a few weeks, the block was full of typhus again. Mengele said that disinfecting could no longer be done that way. He cleared one block of 600 – 700 people by sending them to the gas chamber. He had this empty block cleaned and disinfected. There was a bathtub between the two blocks. The prisoners from the

remaining block were stripped naked and washed in this bath tub and then put into the clean block. Mengele kept doing this from one block to another. Spotted fever and typhus almost ceased after this.

From his research, Mengele wanted to learn the genetic basis for race and traits. I remember once when I worked in a Polish block, there was a family of Jewish circus workers. There were dwarves and normal workers. Mengele was very happy to discover this family with individuals of normal stature and abnormal stature. He cleared a block room just for this family. For one week, he called upon this family to investigate everything about them. They were presented with a large sausage. After his studies were finished, the whole family went to the gas chamber.

[Authors' note: According to Elizabeth Moshkovitz (1987), the dwarf family arrived in Auschwitz on May 19, 1944. They survived and exited the camp on January 27, 1945, after the Russian Army liberated the camp. In fact, Elizabeth Moshkovitz testifies later in the proceedings (see page 83).]

[Telford Taylor questioned Lingens about the assistance of other doctors in experiments. She replied that he did have other assistants, but she was never asked to assist.]

Janet Levi Rosenberg

I arrived at Auschwitz on February 10, 1944 on a transport from Holland. The people on the transport were healthy and I'm not aware of anyone dying on the transport.

I met Mengele for the second time when I was in the block where you could rest after illness or fever. I was staying there for the second time and I had heard about the selections. We had to undress. We had to go naked up to him and turn around. Then he sent us to the right side or the wrong side. But I had my clothes over my arm like everybody and I walked up to him. He looked at me and I realized that perhaps he saw in my face and my eyes what I thought about the whole thing and about him. I was still healthy, not sick. When I came up to him, he didn't let me turn around and just told me to go to the wrong side. I stood there, I wasn't sure. Why would he send me there? I was healthy and good looking. I was thinking perhaps I was on the right side and I looked over. Over there some were thinner, some were fatter. The whole time I was wondering if I was on the right or wrong side. Sunday we had to go and dress. This time I thought, to be sure, I will go under the bed. I went to the last beds, then they came and looked under all the beds. They came to me and took the mattress up. She [the block elder] said that hiding wouldn't help and I went outside. We were sent in again and had to undress again, so I took off my clothes and walked up to Mengele with my head down. I was sent to the right side. One girl was on the right side the first time but was called back and sent to the

other side because she had a kidney operation. Later I saw Mengele after the selection. During a selection, the whole Jewish block from the hospital was sent to the gas chamber. So this block was empty and all of the beds were standing outside. Then there was a third time. Once Mengele came in, Weiss entered. He was a very good looking man and she was a beautiful woman. They had these doctor white clothes on and they looked marvelous. They walked through and it was like a close-up in a film. They discussed the people who lay in the beds. And again, later on when I was in Brzezinka [Birkenau], my husband died. I was very sick and got a very high fever. When the girls went to work, we piled mattresses together for more comfort. Suddenly the doctor came in with Mengele. The next day, the shifts for the working hours would be changed. We would be working the next night. So Mengele said we'd have to go to the sick block. I was afraid to go back. I thought I'd never go back. I told him I was better and would return to work on the following day. The girls had to carry me because I was half unconscious from the fever. That was the last time I saw Mengele.

Stephanie Heller

I currently live in Melbourne, Australia and so does my twin sister. We reached Auschwitz from Theresienstadt in a transport in December 1943. We were 19 years old. We were taken to a block where we had to strip. We went through selection. I'm not sure if the tattoo numbers came

first or if the selection was first. I have tried to forget so many details. I'm sorry that some have escaped me. At this time, the question about twins was asked. We were put aside. At that time, there were also men and families taken to the same camp. My husband was there. As twins, my sister and I were asked what our profession was. We were working in the ghetto Theresienstadt as nurses. We said we were nurses although we were never trained. We were put into a block for sick people where we were trying to do whatever possible. Part of our duties was to carry the corpses. There was not much help we could give, but as much as we could, we tried.

The first time I saw Mengele was at a selection when he just sent people to the right or left. He didn't look very frightening at that time. We didn't know what it meant when he was sending people to different sides. Only later we found out and we started to fear him. We were told that we were safe because we were twins.

My sister and I had many tests. We were sent to have x-rays taken, foot prints, and many different body examinations. Later there was a time when Mengele personally took us through the Gypsy camp. It was different from the other places we had been living. Mengele even had Gypsies playing music. This gave us the impression that he wanted to impress us. He was quite nice to us. We were not frightened at this time. Later he took us to his study. He was examining our hair and asking us questions about our parents. Later we were sent back to our camp. The very next

day we found out that those Gypsies who had been treated so well had been sent to the gas chamber.

Later we were taken to some kind of hospital block and were given transfusions, each separately, straight from Donner who were twin brothers who we didn't know. They must have been about our age. We couldn't speak together. We guessed from some remarks that they were from Poland. After the transfusions, we had a very bad reaction. We were very sick and left there lying in the hospital for maybe two days. We had been suffering from bad headaches, fevers, and nausea. We felt very bad. We didn't know what had happened to us. We might have been given the wrong blood type. We recovered and were taken back to our block. Then we were told by somebody who we understood knew about Mengele's plans that we had been chosen for a special experiment by Mengele to find out if identical twins who were fertilized by other identical twins would become pregnant with twins. We were very frightened by that prospect. We didn't have many chances to say anything, but I somehow found the courage to ask Mengele, when he came to our block, to let me be with my husband. I said that I didn't want to be part of the experiments anymore. To this he replied that I was only a number and had no say. He then left. Fortunately for us, this experiment was never carried out because we had to be evacuated from Auschwitz. We were sent on the death march and finally reached Ravensbrück.

It is hard to say how many days we marched. The memories are of sleeping on snow and dredging along the

road where there were corpses laying around. There were guards around us shooting everyone who couldn't keep up. It's hard to say. Maybe it was two days or maybe it was much shorter. It felt like an eternity. I can never get this out of my mind.

[A panel member then asked Heller further questions about the blood transfusions she and her sister received and about the proposed fertilization experiments. Heller replied:]

At the time we didn't know what Mengele was trying to do. I don't know what he would be able to find out from blood transfusions. After all, we had such bad complications afterwards. At that time, we were very ignorant. We didn't have room to ask. The person who informed us about being chosen for the experiments didn't tell us more. We were just guinea pigs.

Mengele didn't do anything with us about the fertilization experiments. If we had been at an age nearer to the desired age for his experiment, we would have been made pregnant by other twins because he was interested in the genetic results. I don't know if these experiments were done on other people. I doubt that they were because soon after that he disappeared, possibly in August 1944.

I don't know anything about experiments that transfused blood from twins to non-twins. We were actually very isolated. Between the twins makes no sense. Mengele's idea was from twins to non-twins. Blood was taken from us for blood tests. The transfusions were directly from the male twins to us.

I don't know if there was any blueprint or plan for Mengele's experiments. Everything we knew was told to us by the people in charge of us. These could have been just blind experiments.

[A panel member then stated:]

Mengele had a degree in anthropology as well as a doctorate. He served for half a year then again for one year in an institute for hereditary diseases. He wrote a paper about cleft lip and cleft palate in which he looked at family members looking for familiarity. All evidence suggests that he had an appropriate scientific background. This suggests that he was not completely a "wild man." After he couldn't serve in the army, he was asked to be assigned to Auschwitz in order to experiment. Here he would have the opportunity to study hundreds of thousands of individuals. I think it's important to find out if he represented a crazy Dr. Frankenstein or whether, in fact, he had some normal education. May I ask if the people who helped were forced or from the German staff? Who were the doctors and nurses you were in touch with?

[Heller replied:]

There was a Dr. Heller who was in charge of some of the patients. I'm not sure how much he was involved in the experiments. Mengele did have some doctors who were prisoners. They were probably doing experiments under his orders.

The doctors and nurses had to follow the orders but they were human beings. They did sympathize with us. We

didn't feel so badly with them. We didn't expect anything bad to happen to us at that time.

Ruth Elias, Jewish, Czech

I arrived in Auschwitz on December 23, 1943 on a transport from Theresienstadt. I was 19 ½ years old, nearly 20. I was married in Theresienstadt and I was in the beginning of my third month of pregnancy when I arrived in Auschwitz. When I realized that I was pregnant in Theresienstadt, I asked several doctors to help me get an abortion but it was strictly forbidden for them. I had no other choice but to go on the transport.

After a bath and being tattooed, I arrived in the Familienlager [family camp (Michael & Doerr 2002, p. 158)]. There were two barracks, one for men and one for women. Without underwear, it was freezing cold. There was also a block of ill people where Jewish doctors were. I went to them for an abortion but again no one was willing. I had no choice but to stay like I was.

It was at the end of May or beginning of June when rumors came that they needed young hands for work in Germany. We knew that there would be a selection. We had known who was making the selection about the gas chambers. And I have known that if they see that I am pregnant, I will go to the gas chambers. Mengele arrived with some other doctors whose names I have forgotten. We had to undress and stand in a row, men and women together. I saw from far behind that on one side there were

ill people, children, old people, and, on the other side, young people. I wanted so much to be with those young people. I was young. I was in the 8th month of pregnancy when I went through the selection. I didn't know what to do, but my instinct told me to do something. So I asked several young girls to stand in front of me so Mengele might not see that I was pregnant. Perhaps Mengele would see their bodies and not mine. So there it was, Mengele was moving his hands right and left. He shooed me to the young side and instinctively I knew that I had saved my life.

We were loaded on wagons and off we went to work in Hamburg in a bomb factory. My husband was taken to another camp. I was in Hamburg for two days where we were working very hard. We had to clear the bomb place. In the morning of the third day, an SS arrived and asked if anyone was ill in that block. A woman said that no one was ill but that there were two pregnant women. Immediately we were taken away, both of us. The other woman was Berta [Authors' Note: Berta's last name was Reich according to a book later published by this witness (Elias 1999)]. We were taken away and we came to a railway station where the SS with rifles and bayonets were accompanying us like real prisoners.

We arrived in Ravensbrück. We were there only 2 ½ days. In the evening of the second day, on the loudspeaker they summoned the pregnant women. I feared but I didn't know what to do. Berta had a much bigger belly than me. We told them that we were sisters and they believed us. They wanted to send all pregnant women away, but I said

that my 'sister' had pains so they let us stay. We were lucky because they let us stay although all of the other pregnant women were sent away. In the morning they saw that Berta had no pain. They sent us to catch the transport. In the railway station, I heard only one word: Auschwitz. We were so glad that we had gotten away from that terrible place. Now we were going back. Again an SS man with a rifle accompanied us to Auschwitz. Berta and I were speaking Czech together about what we could do to save ourselves. In the railway station, we were thinking about what we could do. We had a red triangle with a yellow triangle over it on our shirts. We took the yellow triangle off. Without it we would be identified only as political prisoners.

We again were lucky. When we arrived in Auschwitz there was only one person sitting in the office. He asked us our names. I gave them the name of a Czech singer. He also asked my mother's and father's names and if they were Jewish. I lied. This man took the phone and asked for someone to accompany us to the women's camp [Frauenlager (Michael & Doerr 2002, p. 167)] in Auschwitz.

The people who were already there were amazed because they doubted that the transports out of Auschwitz had any destination. We came back with the knowledge that the people are actually leaving for someplace else. We were such a sensation that Mengele heard about us. The next day he came to see us. We were shown to the Revier [hospital]. He asked us where we had been during selection. He couldn't believe that he didn't see us. He told us with a sarcastic smile, "You wait and give birth to your child and

then we will see." I couldn't imagine in my biggest fantasies what was waiting for me. Mengele came to see us nearly every day.

The time came when I started having labor pains. A Polish midwife was assisting with the birth. I lay on these stones without anything and gave birth to a beautiful girl. There was no soap, no hot water, no cotton. In my own filth and with my baby, I went to my cot only with a cover. We were both covered. A woman who was working with clothes gave me a nightgown for a present. I tore it into four pieces which became the diapers for my child.

On the following morning, Mengele gave the order to bandage my breasts. I heard afterwards that he wanted to do research to see how long a newborn could live without food. I had no other choice but to take a piece of linen and store my bread for my baby. I fed my child. She got thinner and thinner every day. Mengele came every day. My milk started to come in and my baby was crying from hunger and I couldn't give her anything. After several days, she had no strength to cry. She was a little skeleton. After six or seven days, Mengele arrived and told me to be prepared tomorrow morning with my child. I figured that was my last day of living. I started to cry and was hysterical. I screamed. A Jewish prisoner doctor, Maca Steinberg, came to me. When she asked me why I was crying, I told her my story and she said that she would help me. After the lights went off, she came back with a syringe in her hand. She told me to give it to my child. I asked what it was and she said it was morphine. It will kill my child, it cannot live anymore. She

told me that I was young and that she had taken the Hippocratic Oath. She said that she must save my life but that my child would not last. She talked and talked and talked until I did it. I murdered my own child.

In the morning, Mengele arrived. I was prepared to go, but he didn't want me, he only wanted my child. He couldn't find the corpse in piles of corpses. He came back to me, telling me that I was lucky and that I would be leaving Auschwitz on the next transport.

My friend Berta did not have to wait so many days because the doctor stole the morphine for her the day she gave birth so the child was immediately dead. We both went away in October with men from Czechoslovakia and women from Hungary. We arrived in a place near Leipzig where we were working.

We were liberated the 18th of April, belonging to the Buchenwald liberation. Twelve Czechs and I went back to Czechoslovakia. There I started to look for my family. My father had 13 siblings. The only thing that kept me alive was hope of finding my family. When I didn't find anybody I started to be very ill. I today know that I fell into a deep depression, but I recovered because of a doctor who gave me very good help. This was unusual because doctors didn't know how to handle survivors at that time. He told me to either go hang myself or start a new life. I was young and I decided to start a new life.

I am married. I had only one wish which was to leave Europe where I had this terrible trauma. My only wish was to go to Israel. Among those 12 survivors from Dachau was

my present husband who also lost a wife and child. We went together to Israel and I am very proud that I have the honor to be in Israel where I was able to raise a new family with roots in my very beloved country.

Thank you for listening.

Vera Alexander

Today I am a widow and I live in Zvat. I arrived in Auschwitz in April 1942 from Gelina, Czechoslovakia. I was 19 years old.

I was assigned to be the block leader of a quarantined block for Germans only. These were German women who were murderers. They were from prison and they were antisocial, political prisoners, and murderers. Also there were prostitutes and people caught on the black market.

One woman was a lesbian. Many of the lesbian women were in love with her. She was infected with typhus and scabies. She was taken to the hospital. One night a messenger came from the infirmary. The messenger said he was looking for Dr. Mengele. I went into a room and Mengele was sitting at a desk with a ruler in his hand. He greeted me and invited me to sit down. He asked how it was possible to have lice, typhus, and scabies in my block.

Before this encounter with Mengele, I had seen him in many selections. Before Mengele came, there were beatings and yelling. With Mengele, he gave the impression that things were easy. He would whistle music and he would wave his hand like a conductor. He also told jokes

I chose from my barrack girls that I knew would pass selection. Mengele looked at me and asked if the girls were virgins. I replied that I didn't know, not having examined them. Mengele then told me that he didn't know if I was a virgin or not. All of that happened when he was doing the selections to the right and left. In between, he was asking me that question.

One of the supervisors took me on a motorcycle to the Gypsy camp where I became supervisor for small children. There were just children from three to five years old. It became clear that these were twins. Mengele came to inspect the barrack. Everything was white. He brought along a car filled with beautiful new clean clothes, toys, chocolates, and bedpans so the children didn't have to go out at night. A few days later, I dressed all of the children and Mengele came again. One of the little girls was wearing long white socks which were not smooth. Mengele yelled about that. These children got much better food and this block was clean. The parents who were Gypsies were not permitted to visit. The children were with me until one day someone other than Mengele came to take one set of twins. I don't remember if they were boy or girl twins. One was a hunchback. I don't remember if it was a boy or a girl. I don't remember the exact time but it was shortly before the Gypsy camp was eliminated. These two twins were returned to my barrack in terrible condition. It was not Mengele who returned them. Their veins were sewed to one another, back to back. They were trying to make them Siamese twins. All of the scars became filled with pus and the children

screamed night and day. I didn't ask who had done that and they didn't really know. The mother's name was Stella and she was an attorney. The parents obtained some injections, I am assuming that they were morphine, and they killed the children themselves.

I didn't see any more experiments. A few days before the liquidation of the Gypsy camp, I was sent back to Camp A. And then later on when the Hungarians were coming in, I was transported back to the Gypsy camp as the block leader. The twins were no longer there. They took them away or they killed them with the Gypsies.

Mengele didn't touch the twins or kiss them like some of the other SS men did. He didn't touch them; he just wanted everything good for them. That was all he worried about. He had a special concern for the children he experimented on because he wanted them well. There were about 100 children, although I'm not sure. I was with the twins for about six weeks. I don't know if the children were eliminated. None died while I was in charge. Their conditions were excellent. I only know about the experiment on Tito and Nina who were sewn together.

Vera Kregel

Mengele called me "my Gypsy child." We were from Czechoslovakia. We were very rich and we were fugitives since 1941. We hid in the forests. We were chased like animals. Once the money was gone, they told the Nazis we were Jews. We were put into cattle cars and arrived at

Auschwitz in the winter of 1943. I arrived with my mother, father, and twin sister. My sister and I were not identical twins. We were five years old. My mom had very light skin with blue eyes and dark hair. And I have a darker complexion. I look like a Gypsy and my sister looks different.

When we arrived, I saw many dead bodies just falling out of the cattle cars. They had suffocated. We got off into this very big place. We were sent to the right except for my father, who was 20 years or more older than my mother. He was sent to the left. My mother was 28 years old and my father was closer to 50. We never saw him again. We found out the next day from a woman who worked in the Canada building where they processed clothes that she had found my father's coat with a monogram inside. My mother was crying and the woman told her not to cry lest she also end up in the chimney.

I was five years old when I arrived with my twin sisters. A Nazi officer was calling for twins. My mother said that she had twins. Then he put us to the side and there were other children. There were some adults and we were told to go in a direction. I was a little child. From the ramp you couldn't see what was happening but once we started walking I could see a lot. There was a big scooped out hole in the ground with fire in it. And little children were being thrown in the fire. The SS would break the skulls of the children with sticks. It wasn't on the ramp, it was behind the turn around. I saw the fire and I thought I was dead and that I was in hell. Or I thought that maybe that I was in an

asylum. I was going crazy or maybe I was in some kind of crazy place. I didn't cry. I held onto my mother's hand. I was very confused.

We were taken to a place called the *zouna* [Sauna]. There was a pool with water reaching my knees. There were a lot of SS with guns and rubber hoses and they forced us all to undress. They yelled, "Run fast, run fast." Those who did not run fast were beaten so badly that the blood would burst out and they would die there. There were grownups and we were the only children. We were with our mother. We had to keep running all of the time that the Nazis were around. They hit us continuously. We were stronger because we had been on the run and hiding in the forest for two years. We had learned to suffer, run, and control ourselves. After the zouna, they wanted to separate us from our mother but I put up a fight. It took three SS to separate me from my mother but they did separate us. Olga and I were taken to a room and a few hours later we saw our mother. We were just happy, we just didn't understand. And then they took my mother, my sister, and me and another set of twins and put us in a cage. Like a cage for animals, it was only one or two meters. We couldn't move at all. We were cramped like animals in a cage. We stayed like that for ten days. Mengele came every day and injected us with many things. We didn't know what. If we said anything, we would be beaten. The injections made me want to throw up all of the time. They were numbing the brain. We felt like fainting. My sister was dizzy all of the time and fainted. She was fading away. The experiments were done to compare our eyes with our

mother's. They checked and studied eyes. They put drops into our eyes and even studied the roots of our hair. The eye drops burned terribly for several hours.

I didn't know then but now I know that we were in the lab of Dr. Miklos Nyiszli. Nyiszli was a personal pathologist for Mengele. There I was horrified to see a wall filled with the eyes of human beings. The eyes were pinned on the wall just like one would do with butterflies. I was horrified to see that. I ran outside, horrified, and told my mother that I had seen a wall filled with eyes looking at me. I couldn't exactly explain. I was trembling and my knees were shaking.

After that they took blood from us every day, sometimes more than once a day. They used big syringes for the blood. The blood was taken to wounded German soldiers. They also did handprints, footprints, and x-rays. An artist named Dena, a Czech girl, did drawings on every centimeter of our bodies. Then they photographed that. Hour after hour we were naked. Everyone studied us naked. Then they gave us injections into our spines that made me feel nauseated and caused dizziness and headaches.

My mother stayed alive. After Auschwitz, we marched in the death march, the three of us together. I must point out here that in the middle of the march, after they had shot and killed a lot of people, they left us in the middle of the road alone. Jeeps and motorcycles came and the soldiers accompanying us left us in the middle of the road. In the snow, we didn't know what happened and we didn't know where we were.

Unidentified female witness with long dark hair and bangs

Today I live in Tel Aviv, 70 Nordau Boulevard. I was the daughter of two doctors, Ira and Yaakov from Hungary. They took us to accompany the sick to Auschwitz. They were not asked but were forced to volunteer by the Orthodox congregation in Hungary. When we got into the cattle car, they closed the door and we discovered that those being transported were not physically ill but were 80 mentally ill people. There were also two other doctors not from our town. Four days we were without water and accommodations. The sick were choking and chasing us. Some of the sick died. I was half-fainting. I was 13 years old. There were horrors. The SS were screaming outside and there were gunshots. They were screaming, "Jews, Jews, if you don't shut up the sick we will kill you all together."

That is how we arrived at Auschwitz. We didn't know the place. My mother also didn't know but heard rumors and told us that we were going east, which was bad. We would receive just bread, a little water, coffee, and soup. That was the end of June 1944. That was the first transport from the Hungarian city of Szeged. Szeged had two more transports approved by the head of the Austrian community. That means that I underwent pre-selection before I was turned over to the Germans.

When we arrived at Auschwitz, some of the sick were already dead. There were calls for doctors with medical bags to come forward. My mom took my hand and we kissed my

father. He was taken to the other side and we went with my mother to the end of the ramp. There stood the SS and in the middle stood a tall man – he was tall for me because I was 13. He was handsome, brown, and looked to be Italian or Spanish rather than German. He was holding a stick in his hand that he was hitting against his fancy boots. He asked my mother if she was a doctor. He always spoke nicely and politely to doctors. He asked her where she had studied and she told him in Szeged, the second city of Hungary. She specialized in dentistry. Mengele asked her several medical questions and one question about dentistry. I didn't understand the content even though I spoke perfect German. German was the second language we learned in school and I also had private tutors. My mother understood that this was a test to determine if she was really a doctor and Mengele believed her. Then we went to the shower. After that I never saw my father or any other member of my family.

Myer

I arrived at Auschwitz from Czechoslovakia in May 1944. We arrived when my twin brother and I were 11 years old. There were six of us children, ages 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, and both parents.

When we arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the men got off the train and lined up in a row. Men stood alone and the women were with the children. The selection began. Dr. Mengele stood in the middle and the Germans stood around him. The men went to one side and the women and children

to the other. The twins remained last. We were taken to a bath house and they told us to leave all of our clothes and we would find them when we got back. But we didn't find our clothes and we were given other clothes. We were kept in the room for two days and then they took us and they separated me and my sister. She went to Camp A in Birkenau and I went to Camp F. I was among the first twins and I cried day and night and couldn't calm down. The head of the block saw that I couldn't be calmed so he changed my room and gave me something to eat. I felt terrible. The same week, they tattooed my number. I figured out that I would survive. After a few days, more twins arrived and I calmed down a little. After some time, they changed my clothes a second time. There was a clothes storage building. Usually the Germans were very particular about cleanliness. From the clothes storage building, they gave me my big brother Shalom's pants and I got very emotional and began to cry. I didn't know what to think. What was the situation? Was he alive or not or did he go to work. They also gave me a belt which I left at home. Another time I'll bring it. I was left with two souvenirs: the number on my arm and the belt.

Then there were selections between the healthy and the sick, also the twins. Dr. Mengele arrived suddenly and said that all the twins should stand outside in rows. Of course, the little children stood in front of the taller children. I thought to myself that this situation was unusual. Before Mengele, the twins were not put through selection. It was sick barrack number 5. Mengele entered and went from patient to patient looking at the patients' charts. He took the

charts from the sick ones and the healthy ones when it should have been the opposite. When he finished with the sick ones, he went on to the twins. When he came to me, I appealed to him because I was small. He asked me my name. After telling him that, I was told to return to my place. The selection was over and everything was okay.

I went through experiments, blood tests, had drops put in my eyes, and had eye tests. I was measured from head to toe. X-ray and pictures were taken too. Those tests affected me badly. Even today I really suffer because of those drops. I have been suffering from dizziness ever since I got out of Birkenau. Day and night I take tranquilizers.

I don't remember if I had injections. The tests were done in the Gypsy camp. We met Dr. Mengele often. There was a woman doctor sometimes with him. They said she was his twin.

I was liberated from Auschwitz on Saturday, January 25, 1945 by the Russians.

[At this point, the testimonies of the morning were completed]

Panelist Telford Taylor, speaking after the break

Before we begin, I would like to take just three or four minutes to comment on a few matters that arose from yesterday's session. I think that all of us on the panel here had to meet and enjoyed meeting the press and radio representatives several times. In my experience, in these

interviews, these proceedings have been described as a trial or a mock trial. And I want to say from the outset that this is not a trial in any sense. This is a hearing conducted by a panel of individuals under the auspices of Yad Vashem. We are not an official body nor are we a tribunal. We have no authority to convict or acquit or impose sentences or anything like that. Now, of course, these proceedings are a part of the exercises in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz which, more than any other place, has become a symbol of the Holocaust. We have been focusing on Mengele, a doctor at Auschwitz. He participated, according to the witnesses, both in the selection of individual people for the gas chambers and also in perpetrating atrocious medical experiments on individual inmates, including and especially the twins. Now several people have asked Mr. Wiesenthal, "What is so important about Mengele? Weren't all the SS doctors alike? Was he any worse than the others?" This is a matter that I do have information on because almost 40 years ago, in 1946 and 1947, at Nuremberg we had a trial of about 20 doctors and three administrative officials who bore responsibility for the atrocious medical experiments that these doctors carried out. Some of them were SS doctors whereas others were not. Among the defendants was Dr. Karl Gebhart, who was the chief medical officer for the entire SS, the chief physician of the German army, Dr. Karl Brandt, who was the head of the entire Reich medical service and personal physician to Adolf Hitler, and various others. And we convicted most of those defendants and seven of them indeed were hanged as a

result of their participation in these experiments. And, of course, this is what happened to most Nazi doctors who conducted medical experimentation. Now 40 years have passed and many are dead and many of the others we were unable to find at the time of the trial. But we are focusing now on Mengele because he is believed to still be alive and because there is evidence that is being produced here that the charges against him are indeed grave, including the participation and selection in medical experiments. I do hope that before the end of these proceedings we will hear from Mr. Wiesenthal who knows more than anyone else about the probable whereabouts of Dr. Mengele. And, I think I speak for the entire panel, we are all committed to the belief that despite this is 40 years afterward, and the offenses are so great and so important to mankind that they must not be overlooked or treated with indifference. Despite the passage of time, it is vital to the maintenance of human standards that Mengele be apprehended and brought to trial before an appropriate tribunal.

Dr. Azriel Neeman, a dentist

I am a dentist and I live at 5 Ha Navlim Street. I turned 72 years old at Channukah.

We left Hungary on July 7th and arrived at the ramp of Auschwitz on July 10th. From the ghetto we were taken to the hospital and we took with us lots of medicines. We were standing by our train when we arrived on July 10th. In our cattle car there were about forty doctors. We were told to put

our medical satchels on the floor, and we would all be able to recognize our own later. We put them on the floor and, of course, we never saw them again. There were a lot of medicines and injections in our satchels that were accessible to the hospitals.

I had been in Auschwitz for three weeks when I met a friend who was a doctor. He told me that they were planning on organizing a Jewish hospital. I thus joined the staff at Block 30 when they finished with the Gypsies. We received a report that there were 50 doctors but of these only three were real doctors with stethoscopes and syringes. The rest were German male nurses. There was a doctor who was working at night. I was assigned the job of removing the dead bodies to another barrack. Then I was assigned to another job. Then I had to wash the barrack that was a hundred and fifty meters long. Besides that, I had to rinse the dishes of the sick people. We were with 150 sick people. By September, most of them had dysentery in addition to the fact that they were muselmen. I had to work from five in the morning until nine at night. Then Mengele came to visit. We were very skinny. We had lost a lot of weight but we still had some muscle and could work. Every morning around 10:00 am, Mengele appeared at the entrance of the camp. The supervisor would yell that the camp doctor was here.

In Auschwitz, next to us was camp F. It was a hospital camp and after that was a gas chamber and crematorium where young healthy people worked, Canadians [referring to the people who worked in the Canada block where clothes and other valuables were

sorted]. There they could steal everything and buy everything. They put sinks in the hospital camp. The Canadians got them to the hospital camp and that is how they got to us. It is clear that we had to buy them. I bought a prayer book, a small Torah, and other prayer books. For the two days of Rosh Hashanah, in the two barracks we prayed on Yom Kippur all day long. I cannot imagine now how we succeeded.

We were using the same medicines that we were used to using in Hungary. The patients that we saw and that spent some time with us were improving but all of them were taken to the gas. We received all the medicine that came from Hungary. We did not get any medicine from Germany.

There was a room that was used as an infirmary. We even did lab work. There was a Polish doctor that was just skin and bones but he did that work. When Mengele went through our hospital, he was in a white coat. Even though Mengele was in a white coat and chose some of the people, the people were sent to be burned. One person succeeded in getting some sleeping pills so he did not end up being taken alive on the truck to the gas.

I knew that Mengele did experiments on twins and other people. In the hospital next to us, they were working and also they did surgeries there. But it was not a good idea to be there because they did surgeries that weren't necessary. We had some contact with the twins. The twins, just like the Gypsies, received something extra. Instead of regular food, they received children's food and, in the mornings, they

received coffee and milk. We did not talk to the Gypsies but we just heard about it. We heard about them when I was assigned to move the dead bodies. One day a new doctor came. He wanted to prove that although he was 52 years old and I was 32, he was able to move more dead bodies because he was a sportsman. I did not understand the great benefit in being a body mover in Auschwitz. Then I understood that they took all of the Gypsy men. There were only children and women were in a family camp. They needed dead body movers to be Jewish and they paid for that. There was no money but they paid for it in the following manner: children's food and coffee with milk. We did not know where we got that, probably from the children.

I once was beaten because of Mengele because it was my job was to wash the whole barrack, and I did that a few times. I was to make it wet, to go over ten meters, then to remove the water and then to go over it with a dry rag. Dr. Wisen came one day and said that was not a good system. I was told to pour a bucket of water on the floor, then clean, and then gather the water. I threw a bucket of water but before I could collect the water Mengele arrived at the door. He saw what he had never seen before, water. He yelled at Wisen and asked what was going on. Dr. Wisen did not answer. After Mengele left, I received a punch from Dr. Wisen. I did not answer but I was not guilty.

We had to wash and clean everything again. The three prisoner doctors made an effort to do everything that a doctor could do. Mengele arrived with his assistant, Dr. Wisen. Our block supervisor had to announce the number

of patients in that block. Mengele walked between the rows of the beds. One of the doctors described the conditions of the patients and what medicines they received but Mengele was not interested except for the severe cases, most of all the twins, the whole world knows about them. In our barrack there was a Polish Jew that had six fingers on one of his hands. Mengele sent him to our barrack because our barrack had better conditions than others. There was no role call in the morning or at night. Each person got their own ration of food. The man with six fingers got dysentery and died. During the next day, Mengele came and was looking for the Jew with six fingers and Dr. Wisen told him that the man had died. Mengele almost ate Dr. Wisen alive because he could not imagine being able to study this unique case of a Jew.

The daily visits of Mengele continued throughout the summer. A week before Rosh Hashanah, in the middle of September, Mengele did not appear in our place. Another younger, lower ranking doctor appeared in his place. We had among us a doctor from Poland, Dr. Rabinovitch. He suffered for years in the camp and he knew a lot more than we did. He told us that if Mengele doesn't come, that means there will be a selection. Every Jew in our hospital who was able to stand on his feet needed to sign a paper stating that he had recovered and requested to be sent back to the barrack from which he came. By evening, we had succeeded in sending many patients back to their former barracks. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Mengele appeared and he did a selection in the hospital. Usually selections were done in the

other barracks. Every patient was to get out of his bed and stand in front of it. And there was left and right, and in other barracks there was also left and right. For those who could not get up from their beds, it was clear what would happen to them. Among them there were two doctors as patients. They told Mengele that they were doctors but that was no excuse, they were still sent to the gas. They knew what would was going to happen to them but they didn't know what time. Then Mengele came to the hospital and he ordered those who were sent to the left into a truck that was usually used for dead bodies. Among the patients, many knew that this was their end. Some of those broke through the window and jumped, trying to return to their original barrack. I was standing next to the window and all the male nurses were standing at attention. Mengele looked at the beds and realized the beds were empty. Then he looked at the window and he realized they ran away. One of the nurses said we had to do a big cleaning because all the beds are empty. We were doing general cleaning and Mengele came without announcement. When he saw what we were doing, he was told by Dr. Wisen that there had been seven patients. Mengele asked how come there were so many nurses for seven patients. We realized that we no longer could work here. In comparison to the rest of the camp, it was a better and more protected place to be. We asked for release to go to another barrack, so we were sent to the Gypsy camp which, at its highest number, had 23,000 prisoners. When we arrived, there were only 5,000. That is when we understood that every week Mengele sent those

who were weak to the gas chamber. Realizing that the weak ones were being sent to a gas chamber and fearing that we may not make it much longer ourselves, we asked to be sent to a labor camp.

We succeeded in getting a transfer and we were transferred within two days to a camp near Dachau. We were there in block three from October 27th until March 31, 1945. We always worked outside and we walked six kilometers to our workplace. By November, there was snow all the way up to our knees. One day we saw the thermometer at minus 25 degrees Celsius. We needed to do work. At one time I thought that this very smart intelligent nation had work for a purpose. However, now we did work that had no purpose whatsoever. By March 31st, my legs were so swollen that I could not walk. We were transferred to camp number 4. The weak people were taken, but nobody ever came out of there. They were taken out of there after a few weeks. On April 23, 1945 we were told that anybody who wants to walk from here can go to a train about two kilometers away. Everybody had to go because the camp was going to go up in flames. On the train, there was a child with only skin hanging from his hand. The child asked me to take his hand because he was unable to move. I didn't have a knife but I had a spoon. So I succeeded in removing his hand with the spoon. Then I bandaged the wound.

May I have two minutes from the panel, one minute to the next generation in our country? Yesterday afternoon I had the opportunity to attend your meeting. I was not very pleased. I did not understand from the conference meeting

yesterday afternoon that no one in the next generation knows their job is to fight against anti-Semitism and for Zionism. It does not really matter against what. Not to let that ever be forgotten is important. It is not for us. It is for you and your children. Just the togetherness in the country can give the power that is needed for that. It does not matter if it is the most extreme on the left or the right, but we have to be together. It does not help; it has only weakened the nation. No one asked in front of the burning if you were still religious or if you left the religion. We are only in our power, with God's help, to seek a purpose for Israel here in the country. And for the young people, it is the second generation. I know that for every single one of you, it is good. Everybody is rich. Everybody has whatever they want. But they have to look with open eyes for anti-Semitism today. It is everywhere in the world and is getting stronger. In all the democracies with different variation, Jews, beyond money, have no safety there. Just Israel gives you shelter and safety. Only living here in Israel can we reassure people with God's help. Thank you.

[Authors' Note: The preceding testimony was reordered for chronological continuity.]

Judith Feig (Malek)

I live in Kiryat Gat. I arrived in Auschwitz in May on the first transport with my family with six children including two sets of twins. We were immediately separated from our father. There were calls for twins and our mother

said she had two sets of twins and two other children. She was asked if there was another family member present who could take the two other children and she would see them the following day. They were given to our aunt and we were brought to the showers. It was late at night on a Friday and mother asked if we could light candles. She didn't know what was there. There was a woman from Katowice who told us to get undressed and sit nicely. We undressed and they took our clothes away. There were wooden steps and there we sat. At night, Dr. Mengele came with escorts. He looked at my hair which was long and blonde and he asked me to open my braids. We did not have any food. Mengele came and told us children to stand in front of our mother. He commented on my beautiful blonde hair and told the prisoners not to cut it, just comb it, and give us clothes and food. They brought us a big bowl full of soup. Mother didn't want to eat because it wasn't Kosher. We came from a very traditionally religious home. My father was a writer.

When we got back our own clothes from home, we were taken to the Revier [hospital]. I don't know which block number, and there my mother was the first to be tattooed. After that my three brothers received their tattoos from someone else. After that, they called us for experiments. From my brother they took blood once but from me they took a lot. Once they brought us to do our fingerprints and x-rays and to take more blood. One time they took us together with the midgets and they remarked that I didn't cry. Once day they took blood twice and I asked if they were going to take more the next morning. One day I

was there with three or four tall boys. I was the only girl. Suddenly Dr. Mengele opened the door. There were two doors and two rooms. There was a table shaped like a "daled" (d in Hebrew, like a t in English) and there were two heads there. And when you opened the other door, there was a heart. She told me to take a look at it and then wait. I waited and then we waited outside. I didn't care because either today or tomorrow we would be sent to the crematorium. It didn't matter anymore. I was 13 ½ years old at the time. I was going to be 14 on November 30th.

One day they took me and a tall guy – I don't know if he was a twin or not – and they did a blood transfusion. There was a U-shaped table. I was put on one side of the table and he was on the other. They took blood from me in big bottles and gave it to him. I told him [untranslated Yiddish]. I shut up and I was afraid. The boy became ill and later I was told that he died. How I got to the block, I don't know. What happened to me I don't know but for two weeks I couldn't eat. Then my mother was with me and she took care of me. In that block opposite my bed one night, a woman gave birth. I asked my mother why the woman was always crying and my mother explained that the woman had just given birth. I don't know if she had a boy or a girl. I don't remember. Only that each of us had our own bed and at the end there was a wall and a high bed. They put the baby there for a few days. Suddenly Dr. Mengele came with his escorts and he heard the baby. He asked to see the child and they injected the baby. The nurse came and told the mother that they were finished with her and there was no

child. That was the end of the child. I don't know what happened to the mother.

I don't remember being given any injections. I only remember that I was sick and my brothers were sick there. My mother took care of us. I remember someone, Alice Ansey, saying that potato juice was good for heartburn and then I took it for heartburn. I ate a slice of bread with uncooked potato - it was very good. Food that they gave us was sometimes cream of wheat, sometimes a drink, and we got a piece of margarine with bread. We received soup at noon and, in the evening, there was something to drink and a slice of bread with jam. There were not any vegetables or onions.

My brother was transferred to the children's barrack. The two brothers were sick. I did not want to go alone. I didn't want to leave my mother with the two kids. We didn't know why they had to separate us from our mother and I wanted to know where the two brothers were. One brother I knew was in the children's barrack. I took a little chalk and got a little fever and after that stayed with my two brothers. After that, my brothers got well and they transferred us to the children's barrack. There we learned songs. One song I remember. They brought us to pick beans and peas so we'd have something to keep us busy. It happened once or twice. After my mother was in the S-Commando, she worked at night and would bring us a piece of potato or garlic and a piece of onion. We made sandwiches from the food we received.

At the end of the war my brothers were still alive. I

suffered a lot and we were in the Gypsy camp because that is where the big kids had to go. I was left there with my brothers. I asked to be with my brothers and I stayed there until the end.

The experiments on me were done many times; sometimes once a day, sometimes twice a day, once a week, or twice a week. They began right after we arrived, in May or June, and ended when I was transferred to the children's block, about in August.

Helena Mamermish

I arrived at Auschwitz at the end of 1943 from Hungary. This was a special transport, with partisans from Yugoslavia, and spies, or something like that. I first saw Mengele on the arrival platform. He came and looked at us, he had very sharp eyes. He asked for twins, pregnant women, and dwarves. He put two of my friends to the left; me and my friend Elsa, he put to the right side. I had a feeling who would live and who would die. In Poland, I had undergone "aktion" and things of that sort; therefore, I had some experience. There was a truck and Mengele said that those who could not walk could ride in the truck because the camp is far away. Some people who were strong and could walk also went on the truck.

I had a very strong friendly relationship with a woman named Orli Reichert. Oritzka was the "Über Lager," the top camp supervisor of all the sick bay, infirmary, and hospital sections of women in Auschwitz. She was an old

timer. She had been there for a long time and was before that in Dachau and other places. I had a good friendship with her and, thanks to her, I learned a lot about medical things. She was not a doctor. We worked together. I told her that as a Christian, an Aryan, she had an opportunity to survive. She should not risk her life. She stated that she was not risking her life. I decided that I would not die in Auschwitz. If they planned take me to the gas, I would commit suicide. I wanted to collect things such as medications and poison medications.

In honor of you and honorable people, I brought with me a document, so you believe me, that has my name as a witness in the first trial in 1945, in Lüneburg, against Commandant Kramer, against Commandant Höss, Commandant of Auschwitz I, Dr. Klein; and against Irma Grese.

I brought with me today vials with phenol which have been labeled "Sterile Glucose." When I went to the trial, they didn't believe me. They said I was crazy that I would know such things from Auschwitz. I told them that I will bring them the vials from Auschwitz. I told them to open and test the vial, and they saw that it had phenol in it.

I knew that the twins were collected at the ramp and there was no selection for them, and in the Gypsy camp there was a special block for twins. When I talked to Oritzka, there were about 45-48 sets of twins. Mengele did experiments on them. He started a lab. There was a Dr. Epstein from Prague who had lectured at a German university in Prague. Mengele established a special

department for Dr. Epstein to study diseases. In the Gypsy camp, there was an epidemic of noma that made holes in the face. One could see the teeth of the child. Dr. Epstein succeeded in curing one of the girls. Even today I remember her name was Rujishka. Dr. Epstein was able to cure her, with holes in the face, and all of Auschwitz knew about it. Then Dr. Epstein collected all the children who died from noma into one barrack. All those bodies were collected in one block. One day Mengele came and told him take out the bodies and remove the heads. He brought glass containers with chemicals, put a head in each container, labeled each "IMPORTANT WAR MATERIAL" and "URGENT" and they were sent by German mail to universities in Germany. Noma was a disease that was not usually present in Europeans.

There was a block leader, I think her name was Lucy. The twins would talk about her. In the Gypsy camp, Mengele would come and bring candy (bonbons), for the twins, and the children loved him. He used to take one set of twins to his auto saying that he was taking them for a trip or visit. However, Lucy, the block leader, said she never again saw the twins taken by Mengele in the car.

For a Hungarian pathologist named Nyiszli, Mengele established a new pathology lab, just for him, in the crematorium building. Nyiszli received ready material from Mengele. Mengele had there his own laboratory for doing dissections. The twins would be brought to Mengele's lab in the crematorium. Mengele injected them with phenol in the heart. Dr. Nyiszli examined the bodies of the twins right after the injections and he could smell the odor of phenol.

Mengele cut the bodies open while they were still warm, and the warm pieces of human flesh were taken to Nyiszli to examine. Nyiszli put the flesh in glass containers with chemicals and labeled them "URGENT" to be sent to German universities. After the war, I told German universities that they have proof of Mengele's experiments.

Yes, I know the name Dr. Wilhelm Yurkovitch. I don't remember well. I was interested in other areas such as that of Dr. Clauberg. His block, Block 10, was of interest to me, and Dr. Goering also, in connection with the Gypsies. By the middle of the summer 1944, there were no longer any Gypsies. All of them were eliminated. I also know that in Auschwitz there was a special block for children. The block leader was Chelna. She always told us that on one day, 45 children came to her block and Mengele did experiments on their eyes. In my opinion, in addition to eye drops, he gave them injections in their eyes and later they could not see, or they died, or Mengele took them later, or gave them injections. He removed the eyes and sent them to Germany. After the end of the war, I inquired about them and the professor to whom they were sent said that it was true. He stated that he had received many interesting preparations from Mengele in Auschwitz, but he did not know that they came from children whose eyes were removed.

[Panel member:]

I would like to add to Mr. Terlo's question regarding Dr. Wilhelm Yurkovitch. He was a doctor from Chehia, not Jewish, and he arrived in Auschwitz in May, 1942. He knew Mengele personally. I agree with our chairperson that we are

here not judging, but listening to testimonies. But it is clear to me that when Mengele is caught, and we all hope that he will be caught and put on trial, there will be a problem that he personally killed people. There is testimony of Dr. Yurkovitch that is very similar to your testimony and, therefore, I wanted to know if you knew about Dr. Yurkovitch. In just a moment I will read you a few lines of his testimony. That testimony appears in a book written by one of the greatest experts on the topic of Auschwitz. He lives here in this country, Israel, Mr. Eric Kulka, and the book is called *The Factory of Death*. I will read a few lines from it in English. I have the English version.

> One of the children he had under observation died a natural death. At the post mortem it was found that there was been some disorder in the chest organs. Dr Mengele fancied himself a great lover of science and decided to know if the other twin had the same disorder. He drove to camp and enticed the twin into his car (this is exactly what you told us) with some chocolate, and said that they will go for a drive together. The ride led to the crematorium yard. Dr. Mengele told the child to get out of the car, drew his revolver, shot the lad in the head, and ordered a post mortem to ascertain that both twins had had the same chest trouble.

[Helena Mamermish continued:]

I only heard about this doctor and in my opinion he used injections that Dr. Nyiszli wrote about, that there were chunks of blood with the smell of phenol.

I have a lot of information but I know that I have very little time so I am shortening my testimony. I know of a case that was in the block I was in. A pregnant woman stowed away in our block. Mengele did not pay attention but he had very keen eyes. Suddenly there is a roll call and this woman is standing. She was getting labor pains, early labor pains, and she hardly could hold on until the end of the roll call. She ran into the block and she wrapped herself in a blanket, biting on the blanket so she would not scream, and she gave birth to a girl. Mengele did not see her but had a sense that something was not right, so he went into the block and saw her. He took away her baby and threw the baby into the fire; in the middle of the block there was an oven, and he threw the baby into the fire. I am not the only one who says this. Others said that he did that. I saw this incident. Mengele told the block leader to take the baby first and put the baby in water, and then take the baby and throw the baby into the fire. In the case I just described, he did not put the baby in water, just straight into the fire. I can take an oath and testify to this in a trial.

I know of Block 10, that Dr. Clauberg was not an SS member. You probably know that he was a very famous doctor in Germany and he came to Auschwitz only to do experiments.

Mengele sent things to the Genetic Institute on

Heredity. He researched how to increase the Aryan race, excuse me, the superior Aryan race. This is the reason he did experiments on twins. In Block 10, they studied how to eliminate the "inferior" races, not only Jews. They knew that they would eliminate us in the gas chamber and in the crematorium but there were other "inferior" people who needed to be eliminated, fast and cheap. They gave injections and radiation treatments, and they removed the uterus. I have here a small tobacco pouch. It has no stitches because this was made out of the skin of Jewish testicles.

In my opinion, the twins that are alive are alive accidently because they could have cut them up, but the Russians were too close and the Nazis did not succeed in eliminating them. Otherwise none of them would have remained alive. And they are very dear to me, very dear.

They used injections of phenol but it didn't say phenol. I took the vials to the trial. This was for killing. When you put it in the heart, right away the heart stops. They used it in the hospitals and infirmaries. I collected all this material and put it in jars and bottles, and I can go to Auschwitz today and find them because I know where I hid them in the ground. Some of the vials and bottles I put in small bags, maybe pouches, and took them with me to Bergen-Belsen because I was not liberated from Auschwitz. I went with the first evacuation to Bergen-Belsen.

In the beginning of 1944, there were 48-50 sets of twins in the Gypsy camp, Mengele kept taking them out. At the end there were 7 or 10 set of twins. That is what I know. These were not Gypsy twins, these were twins brought from

Hungary. A block for children was separate in Birkenau.
The twins were from age 2 to 14 years of age.
Thank you.

Meir Dov Weiss, a twin

I arrived at Auschwitz on June 2, 1944 from Hungary. I was 13 ½ years old and a twin. We arrived from the ghetto on a Friday afternoon around 4:00 pm. They told us to leave everything, all of our belongings, in the train and to get off the train. Everybody was standing in lines. The SS came and were asking for twins. Somebody pointed out that we were twins and put us in front of Mengele. Then they took out two more children who were on the same transport. One of the children asked the whereabouts of the parents. Someone said Mengele would be our father. We watched as he was separating people to the right and the left. We saw our parents sent to the left with two brothers. Then we were taken to a hospital for mental patients that was between the Gypsy camp and the Canada building.

The next morning we were tattooed. Then Mengele came and examined us every two weeks, and took blood from us every two weeks, and put drops in our eyes. Afterward we could not see for a day or two. They made molds of our teeth.

They put drops in our eyes. I don't know what they were. Then we were taken to the Gypsy camp. There we bathed and then we went naked in front of Mengele. He measured our hands, feet, body, and everything. He took

hand and footprints. He would compare the color of our hair and skin to charts. He wrote down everything. They also took us to Auschwitz where they took pictures of us.

One night they came and took all the Gypsies away. The next morning there were no more Gypsies. I was thirteen and a half. We worked in the camp doing odd jobs. There was a Dr. Thilo who was the supervisor of the camp. Dr. Thilo did not like the twins because he said we did not work as hard as the others. Every month he did a selection among the sick people. One day he decided to do a selection among the twins. One day, after roll call in evening, Dr. Thilo came to our barrack, and we all had to stand naked and he did a selection and he sent us to the crematorium. I was among those who were sent. My brother was taller and he was not sent. We were crying because we knew that was the end. There were some Jewish doctors and an SS soldier. One said that Dr. Thilo had left the camp. They asked the SS to call Mengele. Mengele came running at 10:00 pm at night and he sent us back to the barrack because he wanted to do experiments on us. It bothered Mengele that Thilo had sent us to death. During the next afternoon, we heard yelling and screaming in the crematorium. Many SS arrived in cars and on motorcycles. There was a lot of shooting. We went inside our block and we learned there was a lot of killing of Nazis and Jews.

Abraham Lindenbaum

I arrived from Buchenwald. I was imprisoned there

because I was a Jew. It was at the beginning when the war broke out. There was action in Lamanopha. I was sent to Auschwitz when they emptied the Buchenwald camp and we were all sent to Auschwitz. We were twenty Jews who were sent to Auschwitz. We were intended to be gassed. I arrived on 17 October 1942. Before that, I was in a prison in Minopha because I was a Jew. In the camp I joined the communist party. Because I was very young when I was in Buchenwald, it made an impression on me to oppose the Nazis. This was the reason that I joined the party.

In Auschwitz, I met and saw Mengele for the first time in the infirmary. He did a selection among those people who had no strength to work; therefore, they were useless, and they were taken to the gas. The second time I met him was in Rajsko. That was a camp next to Auschwitz. It was the Hygiene Institute at Rajsko. I had a job there as a gardener. In Buchenwald, I was a gardener also. In Auschwitz, I only worked in the hospital. In Rajsko, I was supposed to bring plants to beautify the small houses of the patients. This was not a Nazi residence.

We arrived at Rajsko in a truck with Nazi guards. There I was supposed to receive the plants. I was waiting to return to the camp. Suddenly we heard terrible screaming, cussing, and I looked carefully and saw Mengele take a revolver and he shot a young Jew. I don't know why. Mengele usually only worked on the ramp. He didn't want to get his hands dirty. We were scared and we wanted to leave the place. I heard later that the young Jewish boy was dead. I testified about the case in Germany.

One time they asked us to send Greek Jewish boys to the main Auschwitz camp. We sent them because it was suspected that they had malaria but they did not. They were taken to Auschwitz for sterilization in Block 11. I saw Mengele one other time when he came to Auschwitz with other doctors. He was asking to talk to somebody who knew something about medicinal plants. There was a huge command of people who collected weeds. They would dry them and then they would take them to the Rajsko Institute. Then he asked me if I knew about that and I told him that I didn't.

[At this point, Simon Wiesenthal of the panel stated:]

We have your assessment about Rajsko. Today there is a leading neo-Nazi and publisher of the "Auschwitz League." This neo-Nazi testified in court that there were no gas chambers in Auschwitz. I am looking for witnesses who were working at Rajsko and who knew him.

[Abraham Lindenbaum replied:]

There are other witnesses here from Rajsko. One of them lives in a Kibbutz here in Israel. The Kibbutz is Netzessreni. His nickname is Mofi.

I only know his nickname, not his full name.

[Wiesenthal then asked the witness to please talk to this person. Information from colleagues at Rajsko is very important.]

[Another panel member, Zvi Terlo, stated:]

It is important to have witnesses to the guy who is now part of the neo-Nazi movement. He advertises lies about Auschwitz. This neo-Nazi guy says there was nothing

in Auschwitz and there was no burning.

[Abraham Lindenbaum continued:]

He once asked Mengele for the skeleton of the guy who was a hunchback. He wanted to have it for studies. He talked to the doctor by the name of Bagel and asked him to remove the meat from the skeleton for the purpose of study and to make experiments on the skeleton.

[Yehuda Bauer, a member of the panel, stated:]

In that there is documentation that at one time a man and his son, who both had skeletal abnormalities such as dwarfism, were killed by Mengele and sent to the Berlin Institute. This was documented. It will be interesting to see if the witness knows anything about this.

Mrs. Esther Czadikario

I arrived in Auschwitz in 1943 on the first transport from Salonica. When we got off the cattle car, there were people with dogs and sticks. I was in the first row. I saw in the darkness trucks that other people were boarding. Children were crying and pushing. They filled up the trucks and the trucks dispersed, and a new truck came. The young males and females were separated. I was in line and I saw my two brothers in the group with the young. I was in the first row with Melakunio. Including all the adults and children, we were about two thousand souls. They brought us inside to Camp Birkenau. We were in a block all night and they only left us a barrel for drinking. In the morning, the SS came took us and put us in a line. They removed all

the hair from our body and tattooed our numbers. I was 30 years old at the time. I was born in 1913.

Half an hour after we were there, we were pushed, hit, and pushed under cold water. After we finished, we got a shirt, khakis, a pair of pants with lice, and wooden shoes. We arrived at Barrack 26. We wore those clothes on our wet bodies. When we arrived at the barrack, they put us in every available stall. There were beds, one on top of the other. I was on the top bunk. There were ten women lying head to foot. There were no blankets below or above us. We were kept there for three weeks in quarantine.

They discovered that I could speak German. My father was a tourist guide in Salonika. At home we received the Jews who had come via Contara, from Salonika to Turkey, Turkey to Syria, and from Syria to Palestine/Israel. Then my father would open their passports to sign for the police. He checked who was a Jew and brought them home to eat with us, so I knew Italian, French, Greek, and Spanish. I started to learn German. So it helped me later that I had learned the language.

In the beginning, I was sick in the hospital and I saw that a woman had given birth to a baby. Mengele came after two days and took him. Then I saw Mengele for the first time and was told that that was Dr. Mengele. The baby was not brought back. After I left the hospital, I was in the Greek barracks and was an interpreter. These Greeks had roots going back to Spain during the Spanish Expulsion of non-Christians in 1492, during the Inquisition. They didn't speak Yiddish or German, just Spanish. I helped them translate.

Mengele's messenger came and asked the barrack supervisor to tell all the pregnant women that they would get soup and cream of wheat with milk. All of those pregnant women who registered for that soup, and even those who weren't pregnant who signed up for that food, were taken after a few days to Barrack 25, which was the death barrack. They took them out of the roll call lineup and took them according to their number to Barrack 25.

My brother was in the work detail in Auschwitz. He would send me cigarettes, a carton of cigarettes. With one cigarette I could bribe every block supervisor. So I had food and I had influence and protection. During the selection of the pregnant women, I went with my barrack supervisor who was a Czechoslovakian, today Bezji Schwartz in Israel. I went with her and took out three women friends and took them to the factory of explosives and they survived. During the selections, I worked with the commando in Zone B in Birkenau. I had the opportunity to take women, wrap them in blankets, and throw them through the window. I could open the back door close to the delousing room for sterilizing. There was a door in the back. I spoke in Greek and whoever understood me left the place. In the middle of all that confusion, I couldn't use any other language like Spanish which everyone knew, or French, or German. Not everyone knew Greek. It is an ancient language.

At that time there was a selection in the whole camp – a big selection – the whole camp participated. I crossed over to the other side and took 14 women and asked them not to look back but follow me. I brought them before

Mengele. I stood at attention and asked if I could pass. I told him that they were helping me bring clothing to the naked who had passed the selection. He nodded yes in approval. I passed and took the women to a corner and dressed them in clean clothes and took them outside. At 12:00 midnight, SS women would come to shower in the zone where I was working and cleaning. During that time, I would overhear their conversations. I knew when transports would arrive and when there would be a selection. The next day I would tell everyone to go to work – that no one should stay in the barrack where there would be selections. Then they would go to work.

Can I ask one more question? This is interesting. There was an elite barrack where women worked in offices, SS offices. I worked there to fold the laundry of the SS, to iron, and to sew on buttons. In the barrack opposite us was Block 10. In Block 10, I daily met the victims from my place and they told me what is happening to them. I saw Mengele escorted by officers coming to visit Barrack 10.

Shmuel Bash, speaking with a reporter during intermission

My name is Shmuel Bash and I am one of the twins. I think the importance of this gathering is so that people will not forget what happened. The younger generation coming after us should remember. We have here proof. We know from the Bible what Amalek has done for us and for what purpose. When I was in Auschwitz, one of the people in charge told our group that the purpose of the experiments

was to increase the Aryan race, so Germans would have twins. With all that knowledge, all they are left with is a pitiful, murdering nation. Thank God, we remained alive to let the world know what happened.

I think the young Israelis should come to listen and learn. Yesterday there were quite a few students here. Today some may not have been able to come. Maybe the Minister of Education had to invite them and make arrangements. Maybe there was no advertising about the event in the schools. It would be good if this public hearing would become part of the educational materials for schools. We hope the media will publicize it. We only want publicity, not financial restitution. We would like human restitution so that it wouldn't happen again.

Unidentified twin, speaking with a reporter during intermission

I am from the twins also. I came from Greece when I was 15 years old. I can say that I alone gave Mengele what he deserved. I was the only one that came into the camp whole and came out whole.

Mengele did surgery on me. One day I was sorting clothes and they took me for an experiment. I was in the hospital for two or three days and I saw jars. I saw my own testicles in the jars. Then I understood my purpose for being there [Greek words, indistinguishable].

I have children and grandchildren and I tell them what happened. My daughter is a nurse at the hospital Tel Hashmer. All that is going on at this hearing should be

written so the next generation can learn.

[Authors' note: Perhaps he had only one testicle removed or has adopted or step-children, if both testicles were removed.]

Peter Greenfeld, speaking with a reporter during intermission

I was three years old when we arrived at Auschwitz from Theresienstadt. We were from Prague, Czechoslovakia. My twin sister must have remained there according to the details that I have today. All the family was left there. My father died in the Theresienstadt ghetto.

After the liberation I was still alive. I was with other children. I was discovered by a man with the name of Greenfeld. He took me to the Soviet Union. I lived in the Soviet Union until 1979 when I came to Israel. Is there enough knowledge for the young people on what happened? I hope the media will all tell the story in the schools.

Someone in the audience during intermission

The twins were also going to be killed, but the Nazis didn't have enough time because the allies were advancing too fast.

Shmuel Bash, speaking with a reporter during intermission

I saw him, Mengele, a few times. During a selection he indentified me as a twin. He was present at some of the experiments at Auschwitz. They took us to Auschwitz and told us to undress and we sat there naked. They put a tube in my rectum. Even today I have problems with hemorrhoids and high fevers. Those tubes were shoved into my rectum. Mengele didn't do it, he just stood and watched and said, "Very interesting."

[The reporter asked Shmuel what he would say to Mengele if he were sitting across the table from him today.]

I would remind him what he has done to me. I would remind him that I was present at the selection Yom Kippur. Mengele's appearances on these events were always connected to Jewish holy days, new years and Yom Kippur. He always looked to hurt on the holy days.

I think there is a chance the Mengele will be found and put on trial if the world wakes up and does something. Maybe people will make a real effort to find him.

Simon Wiesenthal, speaking with a reporter during intermission

First of all I will tell you, what I see here and the reaction of the media, is a big moral support. When you ask me about the value of this, maybe this will make an impression on all the protectors of Mengele. The people of Paraguay know that they cannot live alone. The conclusion that we will make will be an appeal. Mengele's safety

belongs to his protectors. If we can have an influence on them, they protect such a big criminal.

I will tell you about the importance of Mengele. The big importance is not to have him as a criminal but as a witness, forty years later. We need this historic lecture for two young generations, grandsons and granddaughters of the survivors, many young people in the world, because the history of man is the history of crimes. There is not a written law that the next genocide will be on Jews. It will be others. That is a big importance.

The Israeli government is interested because the enemies of yesterday are enemies of the state of Israel, and enemies of the Jews. They make the Jews responsible for Israel and Israel responsible for the Jews. From this side it is a unity against all the Jews in the world, in Israel and abroad.

My grandchildren who live in Israel know about this hearing because I am here. This is a matter of the media. The media has a very big educational importance. I hope they are using this.

Man testifying from behind the screen

Today I am 61 years old and I live in Tel Aviv. I arrived in Auschwitz on April 10, 1943 on the third or fourth transport from Salonika. After about a week of being in Auschwitz, a group of Germans with uniforms came. We didn't know what they were. They told us that we should step out of the line, two people in every age. I was 19 years

old. I stepped out together with the others. A day later we were transferred to some kind of a hospital where there were only Christians. It was Block 11. There were 35 people in the group that stepped out and they chose two people. In the middle of the week, we were taken to the women's camp, and there they irradiated us. It was done all of the time that I was there, about four months. They would sit us on some kind of a chair and, in German, told us not to breathe; however, we did not speak German. I felt some kind of a weakness. They would ask us how we felt. I was among the last ones, and we did not know what happened to the people who were ahead of us. Later they transferred us to Auschwitz, and they prepared me for surgery. I was told not to eat, and then when the time came to do the surgery, they put me in the surgery room. They gave me an injection into the middle of my spine. There was a doctor who may have felt sorry for me who said in French, "Ca va bien" – it will be good. After 30 to 45 minutes, I was taken to the recovery room, and there I saw all the other people from my group. They asked me what had been done to me. I didn't know and I was still numb. They all told me that their testicles had been removed. So about an hour later I felt that they removed only one of my testicles.

Later I was sent to a commando to work and about two or three weeks later they transferred us to the Warsaw Ghetto, to clean and level the Warsaw Ghetto. The Russians were getting close to us so they took us on a march from Warsaw to Kutna. From there on trains, and then they took us by cattle car to Dachau

I am married and I have three children.

Leah Taub

I arrived at Auschwitz in May of 1944. I was 11 years old. With me were my parents, one sister, and 7 brothers. They did not speak, they yelled, they barked. Mengele moved his hand to the right and to the left. We never saw our parents again. Mengele took blood the first day I arrived and barked at me to pump my hand because the blood wasn't coming fast enough. They took x-rays. One girl had a bad rash on her neck and she covered it with her hand. Mengele took his wand and moved her hand. He took the girl away and she disappeared. In December 1945, we were marched on the death march. We arrived at Mauthausen and had no food. We saw bodies piled up sky-high.

Eric Kulka

On one occasion, one twin died who had a disorder. They took the other twin and gave him chocolate, took him to the crematorium to Mengele's lab which was above the crematorium, gave him phenol in the heart, and then did an autopsy to see if he had the same disorder. There was an expert in genetics, famous in Germany, who was brought to Auschwitz to do experiments on twins. These were Jewish twins between the ages of 2-14.

Eva Kor

I arrived on a transport to Auschwitz in spring 1944. I was only 10 years old. I don't remember if it was April or May, but it was two weeks after Passover. I am from Transylvania, from the ghetto of Simlyeu Silvanie. I arrived with my parents, two older sisters, and twin sister, Miriam. Only my twin sister and I lived. The rest of the family perished within 30 minutes of stepping down from the cattle car. I never saw any of them again. My twin sister and I were processed in a bath house, sitting naked for most of the day. Prisoner numbers were tattooed on later. We were taken to the barracks with other twins, showing us the chimneys, telling us to see the flames because our parents are probably burning right now. We were in shock since the separation from our mother. That evening we couldn't sleep. When we went to the latrine, we saw bodies of three dead children, naked, with open eyes. This image has stayed with me forever. My twin sister said she never again went to the bathroom in Birkenau. I made a silent pledge to survive.

We met Dr. Mengele the following morning. He visited the barracks every day but Sunday. Everyone was terrified. Supervisors made sure everything was in order. If he found one of the children dead, he yelled and screamed. I was confused. That scene was repeated almost daily. I understand today that he only wanted us for his experiments. If anyone died apart from his plan, that made him angry.

One of the experiments that I was subjected to in summer 1944 was being taken to the lab for having blood drawn twice a week. During those times, they tied both of my arms with rubber tubing. After taking my blood I was given a shot. We never knew what the shots were. I woke up the next morning with extremely high fever. The sun was burning but I couldn't stop shaking. It was very hard trying to hide that I was ill. It was well known among us that anyone who was ill would be taken to the infirmary, from which no one would come back. When it was next time for drawing blood, they didn't tie my arms but instead they checked me for fever. I was sent to the infirmary. A team of five doctors came but they didn't examine me. They just looked at me and at the fever chart. "Too bad," they said, "she has only two weeks to live." Again, I made a pledge. I didn't know then or now what I had. I vowed to prove them wrong and survive. The first two weeks I was between life and death. I was more often unconscious than conscious. I remember waking up on the floor trying to crawl to a water faucet because I wasn't given any. It must have been an isolation barrack, people were only brought there to die. The same five doctors came in twice a day. Mengele was not among them, but they must have been working under his directions. The doctors came only to check my fever. I didn't get medicine, food, or water. I only got to a faucet by crawling across the room. I stayed alive and after two weeks my fever started going down. At this point, I decided that if my fever was going down, I could convince the doctors that I should be released from the infirmary. Two other twins in

the infirmary had chicken pox. I don't remember their names. They taught me how to read the thermometer. It sounds fantastic, but I controlled the temperature reading by manipulating the position of the thermometer. I was out of the infirmary within three weeks. If I had died then, they would have killed Miriam with chloroform shot to the heart and they would have done a comparative autopsy.

Many times Mengele would just supervise, and he had lots of doctors working for him. We were taken twice a week to Auschwitz I, I think to Block 10, where we would stay for 8 hours at a time naked. They would measure and compare. Doctors in white uniforms were continuously writing notes. The experiments were difficult in that they were degrading and made us feel like animals. Because they lasted such a long time, it was impossible to say, "Oh, it will be over in half an hour." I could not cope with thinking about what was happening to me, so I must have blocked them from my thoughts.

I was photographed continuously. Photographed and compared, always in the nude. The humiliation was the closest thing to making someone feel like a nothing, a piece of garbage, a piece of meat.

Yakov Freimarch, dark jacket, gray vest, mark on nose

Before the war, my name was Stanislaw Conglewski. I was born in Poland, arrested, and then taken to different places to work. I arrived in Auschwitz on September 23, 1942. I arrived as a Polish person, not as a Jew. They put me

on an operating table. I was in Block 10. We had yellow triangles written with the country of origin. I was 17 years old. We were taken from Block 10 to 17. I arrived there as a Christian and they found out I was a Jew.

I tried to organize food for the others when I was working on the selection platform. I dropped food in holes in the ground when I was working in order to save it for the others, so that when I was checked out as I was leaving the supervisors didn't find anything on me. Later on, I would come back and collect what I had dropped in the holes.

Dr. Herman worked in the infirmary. We found ointments and bandages and gave them to Dr. Herman before Mengele knew about it. I saw an operation in the hospital in which a person had one side, all black, and Mengele removed his stomach. Dr. Schuman said there was a big change once Mengele removed his stomach.

Mengele would bring pregnant women also to that place.

Shaptai Hannuka

I arrived also from Salonika, Greece. I was 15 years old. We were processed after the selection. I saw a jar filled with testicles.

Elizabeth Moshkovitz, the dwarf family

There were seven dwarfs in our family. We were processed and taken to a shower. Mengele came and he

could not believe there was a whole family of seven dwarfs. Mengele kept us as VIPs. Dr. Mengele, Dr. Klein, Dr. Koenig, Dr. Heller, Dr. Epstein, and Dr. Fischer all came to study us. They took blood, gave injections, and did x-rays every day.

I was 19 years old when I was at Auschwitz. We were kept naked a lot. Mengele gave us good food, but at times we even ate breakfast naked. Many of the SS liked to be spectators. When we performed as entertainment for the Nazis, Mengele would bring many dignitaries and examine us. Mengele was always present at all the exams, as was Dr. Koenig.

Leah Berkman

We received injections and had lots of blood taken. We were called the guinea pigs of experiments. This lasted until November of 1944. We met Mengele every day. We received drops in our eyes, X-rays, radiation, and we were kept naked lots of hours. We had tremendous abdominal pain and nausea. Mengele was tall and handsome. Even today, I have something in my left lung that has been there since the experiments in Auschwitz.

Zvi Spiegel

I was 29 years old when I arrived in Auschwitz. I came from Munkacs in Hungary. My twin sister Magda was already married and had a seven year old son. Someone yelled, "Twins, twins." I raised my hand and told them I had

a twin sister, Magda. They found her. I was taken to the other side. After 2-3 days, Mengele asked me if I was a soldier. I said, "Yes." He then said you will be in charge of the children in Block 13. I taught them geography, mathematics, and I divided the food evenly. This way we had enough to fill our stomachs.

There were some kids who came and I was asked if they were twins and they passed as twins. When I talked to them, I asked them if they were twins and they said that they were not. I told them, "Listen to me, from this day on, you are twins." I wrote down their names, birthdates, and measurements and on the forms I have made them twins. I have taught kids that I was called "Twins Father." I just took care of the boy twins. I helped the children by calming them down when they got upset. Dr. Thilo came to gather the twins. I ran to the guardhouse, told them to find Mengele ASAP. Mengele came running to save his twins. We were saved by the Angel of Death, Dr. Josef Mengele. I had 40-50 children in my care.

[When a panel member asked if any of Mr. Spiegel's twins were present, there was thunderous applause as all stood up.]

Mrs. Baruch

I came to Auschwitz in 1943 when I was 15 years old. Dr. Shuman gave me electrical radiation. There were surgeries. I refused to have surgery. Nevertheless, Dr. Shuman operated on my abdomen. I had a very high fever

and I was given injections every two days. Mengele came every two days and he said I would be okay. In 1962, I had surgery because of continuous problems after liberation. I was told at that time that one of my ovaries and half of my uterus had been removed during surgery at Auschwitz. I am married and I have two children.

The testimonies of the twins and others concluded on February 6, 1985. Although the entire process was videotaped [the tapes are available at Yad Vashem], not all of the interviews were transcribed for this paper because of inaudible or indistinguishable sounds. The authors of this paper have attempted to include all of the testimonies that could be accurately translated and transcribed.

Conclusion

After the war, Mengele was able to escape from a British hospital with the help of fake papers and fled to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Although there were reported "Mengele-sightings" around the world for decades, Dr. Josef Mengele successfully avoided being captured and brought to justice for the 34 years of his life after the Holocaust (Posner & Ware, 2000).

A grave containing his remains was discovered and the body was exhumed on June 6, 1985 but it was not until seven years later that the body was confirmed to that of Josef Mengele by the use of DNA analysis (Posner & Ware, 2000).

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